

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 234109

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BUTZ, EARL)

SUBJECT: VISIT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

REF: CAIRO 8359

1. EGYPT, A PREDOMINANTLY AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY, IS ALSO A LARGE IMPORTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. DUE SECRETARY BUTZ' RESPONSIBILITY FOR US AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND TRADE, HE NEEDS TO VISIT WITH EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT INTERNAL EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND THAT COUNTRY'S CURRENT AND FUTURE IMPORT NEEDS. RE PARA 1 OF REF CABLE, SECRETARY BUTZ WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SINCE THE USDA DOES NOT HAVE APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR SUCH PURPOSES. HE CAN HOWEVER, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF US/AID FUNDS ASSURE THE GOE THAT THE USDA WILL MAKE AVAILABLE ITS PERSONNEL AS NEEDED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT. HE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL EXCHANGES OF PERSONNEL. QUENTIN WEST, ERS ADMINISTRATOR, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING WITH GOE ON THIS MATTER, IS BEING ADDED TO SECRETARIAL PARTY.

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2. RE PARA 2 OF REF CABLE, PRINCIPAL ITEM OF BUSINESS FOR THE SECRETARY ON PL 480 WILL BE CEREMONIAL EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON AMENDMENT OF CURRENT AGREEMENT TO INCREASE WHEAT QUANTITIES FROM 100,000 TONS TO 300,000 TONS. NECESSARY WASHINGTON PROCESSES INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY BUTZ TO SIGN THE EXCHANGE BEING OBTAINED.

3. ADD WILLIAM CARAS, FLIGHT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND ERS ADMINISTRATOR QUENTIN WEST TO SECRETARY BUTZ PARTY.

4. RESERVATIONS ALSO NEEDED FOR ADVANCE PARTY OF TWO FOR NIGHTS OF OCTOBER 26, 27, 28.

5. FYI. SECRETARY'S PARTY ETA HAS BEEN MOVED UP TO 1550 ON 11/9. IF POSSIBLE HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOUND AND LIGHT CEREMONY THAT NIGHT. HIS SUNDAY SCHEDULE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO VISITS TO AGRICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST NEAR CAIRO AND SIGHTSEEING. INGERSOLL

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